

Brinker, Sarah Beth Brown, Kathy Buckley, Honorable Salud Carbajal, Martino Cartier, Dr. Tom Catena, Lieutenant General Brian Cavanaugh, Rear Admiral Shoshana Chatfield, Bonnie Comley, Chief Robert Contee, Wendy Bingham Cox, Howard Cox, Administrator Deanne Criswell, Eduardo Del Riego, Shahla Ettetfagh, John Farahi, Ambassador David Fischer, Jennifer Fischer, Chief Joseph Gallucci, General Michael Garrett, Honorable Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Chief Rodney Harrison, David, Hryck, Dr. Joseph Jabbar, Craig Jackson, Carolyn Jackson, Honorable Jeh Johnson, Sun Yup Kim, Liz Koch, Charles Koch, Frank LaFerla, George Liu, Eduardo Martinez, Professor Michael Massimino, Margie McHugh, Flint McNaughton, Doris Meissner, Dr. Reza Mohajer, Edward Montero, Monica Morales-Mayer, Joseph Morrone, Professor Cherry Murray, Dr. Souhel Najjar, Larry O'Connor, Gholam Reza Odabae, Ronald Offutt, Dr. Demetrios Papademetriou, Nicholas Peppas ScD, Chief Thomas Richardson, Chi Chi Rodriguez, Reza Rofougaran, Dr. Martine Rothblatt, Commissioner Patrick Ryder, Kamil Salame, Henry Samueli, Susan Samueli, Justice Patricia Satterfield, Honorable Stephen Scalise, Adnan Sen, Dr. Michael Shahnasarian, Vlad Shmunis, Dr. Greg Simonian, Dr. Greg Thomopoulos, Rear Admiral Andrew Tjongson, Lieutenant General Giavani Tuck, Elizabeth Weymouth, Dean Michelle Williams, Alan Willner, Richard Wilson, George Xu.

INTERNATIONAL ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR
RECIPIENT

Dr. Segenet Kelemu.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JACK C. JACKSON, SR.

HON. RUBEN GALLEGO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 17, 2023

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of the Honorable Jack C. Jackson, Sr., who passed away on March 5, 2023.

Jack C. Jackson, Sr. served as a member of the Arizona Legislature as well as a Navajo Nation Council delegate. Jackson was born in Leupp, Arizona on the Navajo, and went on to become an educator at Window Rock High School and Diné College. Jack strongly believed in the importance of education for Navajo children. Throughout his time in both the Arizona House of Representatives and Senate, he was a tireless supporter of tribal educational institutions and helped establish Arizona Indian Legislative Day, an opportunity for Arizona's 22 tribal governments to make their voices heard. Jack was a strong advocate for the preservation of Diné culture, language, and traditions for future generations of the Navajo Nation.

Jack C. Jackson, Sr. has had a tremendous impact on the Navajo Nation and Arizona. We are all better for having experienced his leadership and wisdom. I extend my deepest condolences to Mr. Jackson's family and join all those who knew him in commemorating his lasting contributions. He tirelessly fought for his community, and his legacy will live on as an inspiration to us all.

Jack C. Jackson, Sr. was loved by those who knew him and will be deeply and sincerely missed by the Nation he served so honorably. May he rest in peace.

CELEBRATING BANGLADESH INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 17, 2023

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Bangladesh upon its Independence Day. On March 26, 1971, the people of Bangladesh declared their independence from Pakistan, after a long and hard-fought struggle for freedom.

At this time, I would like to join our friends from the community in honoring the brave men and women who fought and sacrificed their lives for the cause of a free and democratic Bangladesh. Additionally, it is a great pleasure to recognize the many contributions of Michigan's 150,000 member Bangladeshi-American community to the state and the many more across the Nation, and to celebrate their rich culture and heritage this March.

Many Bangladeshi-Americans are doctors, engineers, and small business owners, bolstering economic development and job creation in America. Dr. MD Rabbi Alam, a resident of Michigan's 11th District, is the Founder and Chairman of Bangabandhu Commission and is the President of Bangabandhu Parishad USA. The Bangabandhu Commission and Parishad work together closely to strengthen local communities through civic engagement, training and development opportunities. It is my pleasure to acknowledge the wonderful work Dr. Alam and others in the community do to elevate issues affecting Bangladesh and Bangladeshi-Americans.

Over the past five decades, Bangladesh has made significant progress in areas such as education, gender equality, health care, and economic development, and has emerged as a vibrant South Asian Democracy. Bangladesh's economy has grown an average rate of 6 percent over the past year, making it one of the fastest growing economies in the world. The country's GDP has tripled since 2006 and is projected to continue to grow even more in the coming years.

Bangladesh is also one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change, yet their government has implemented various adaptation measures, including cyclone shelters, strengthening river embankments, and promoting climate-resilient agriculture practices. Despite facing numerous challenges, the people of Bangladesh have demonstrated remarkable resilience and determination in building a better future for themselves and their families.

With the significant strides made by Bangladesh in promoting women's rights and empowerment, the country has successfully increased women's participation in politics and implemented policies to address gender-based violence. According to World Health Organization (WHO), the life expectancy of women was just 26 years, at the country's birth in 1971. By the end of year 2020 life expectancy for women is now 72 years. Bangladesh has shown incredible progress for gender equality, and by the beginning of 2023, the Prime Minister, the Speaker of the House, the Deputy Leader of the Parliament, the Education Minister, the Agriculture Secretary of the Bangladesh Awami League, the Foreign Affairs Secretary of the Bangladesh Awami League,

and the Health and Population Secretary of the Bangladesh Awami League are all women. In addition to the women ranking in leadership, there are also seats in parliament that are reserved for women and many more represent seats that are directly elected without quotas. It is clear that Bangladesh has set itself as an example of women empowerment by the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the Bangladesh Awami League, and we are proud to recognize these accomplishments today.

This Independence Day, my colleagues and I are excited to join the Bangabandhu Commission and Bangabandhu Parishad USA in elevating the theme of women empowerment. Dr. Alam and Bangladeshi Americans from around the country will be travelling to Bangladesh to participate in an International Seminar on Women Empowerment, on March 23rd, with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina joining to celebrate this occasion and the dream of the founding father of the nation, the late Honorable Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. I thank Dr. Alam and his team for hosting this incredible event and for welcoming participation from members of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, as a nation founded on the principles of freedom and democracy, the United States celebrates the expression of these values by the people of Bangladesh as they continue to work towards a more peaceful, prosperous, and inclusive society. It is our hope that our two nations continue to grow our friendship and support each other in our mutual aspiration for a brighter future. It is an honor to recognize Bangladesh and the Bangladeshi Americans of our Nation. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this Bangladeshi independence and in honoring the rich history and culture of this great nation. Happy Independence Day.

HONORING MARIA WILSON

HON. MORGAN MCGARVEY

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 17, 2023

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Maria Wilson for her dedication to Kentucky's Third District.

As a graduate of Family Scholar House, Maria continues to work hard to ensure the organization can help women in need and get support to succeed in life. She continues to serve her community by uplifting those in Louisville who need it most. I thank Maria for her commitment to Louisvillians.

HONORING CLAUDIA ALVAREZ

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 17, 2023

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Claudia Alvarez, an Orange County Superior Court Judge.

Prior to becoming a judge, she served as the Orange County Deputy District Attorney for over 22 years. Claudia Alvarez graduated from California State Fullerton in 1991, before attending Loyola Law School. After graduating in

1994 with her Juris Doctorate, Claudia created her own firm where she managed a law practice specializing in family law matters serving low-income clients in Santa Ana. Following her time at her firm, she started serving as an Orange County Deputy District Attorney in 1999.

While working at the Orange County District Attorney's Office, Claudia was elected to the City Council of Santa Ana from 2000 to 2012 and actively worked to improve public safety of the city. She joined the Orange County Water District's Board of directors in 2007 to 2012 and ensured clean waters for more than 2.5 million county residents. From 2012 to 2020, she joined the Rancho Santiago Community College District as a Governing Board Member and oversaw the management and operation of the college district, including its two sister colleges, Santa Ana College and Santiago Canyon College.

Aside from her roles in public office, Claudia has invested countless hours in her community through her volunteer work. Claudia has been a mentor for the Puente (Bridge) and Hermanita (Little Sister) programs, has served as president of the Orange County Hispanic Bar Association, vice president of Kinder Caminata, and president of MANA (Orange County Chapter). Claudia has also served as a board member of Community Service Programs (CSP) (now known as Waymakers). She also has volunteered in the award-winning Orange County Gang and Intervention Partnership since 2011.

Her merit has earned her several accolades such as the Past President's Award from the Orange County Hispanic Bar Association in 2000. She has also received California State University of Fullerton's "Distinguished Alumni Recognition—Querer es Poder: 50 Examples" in 2008. In 2016, she was recognized as the Woman of the Year by the National Hispanic Business Women Association in Orange County. Claudia Alvarez has been described as instrumental in improving public safety and quality of life for her community. She has made her community proud and served as a role model that many aspire to follow.

For this reason, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and recognizing my constituent Claudia Alvarez, for her humanitarian accomplishments and her commitment to her community.

TRIBUTE TO Foothill COLLEGE

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 17, 2023

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Foothill College on being named the Best Community College in America by Niche and Stacker. Foothill is located in Los Altos Hills, California, and has been a pioneer in higher education since its founding in 1957. Foothill College democratizes higher education by offering 191 degrees and certificates to students of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities. More than 13,000 students are enrolled each quarter across the institution's learning settings, which include online classes, field sites, and its beautiful campus. More than 60 percent of students are minorities, 45 percent of enrollees are 25 years or older, and women represent more than half of those enrolled.

The values of the College underpin everything it does: honesty, integrity, trust, openness, transparency, forgiveness, sustainability, and excellence. Trust and openness are evident in the sterling review one Junior wrote about Foothill:

"The professors show that they care for their students by being flexible to meet with students one-on-one and they are very big on advocating for diversity within their classrooms [. . .] Most importantly, the professors provide students with the information of almost every resource that is available to us such as tutoring, mental health services, and financial aid resources." (Niche)

Foothill College maintains its excellence by continuously measuring its accessibility, student success, pedagogy, and learning climate. The Financial Aid Office delivers on its mission to make a college education attainable for every student through the Foothill College Promise, two years of free tuition for first-time, full-time students. Student Services creates an inclusive learning community by working with professors to provide personal translation services in 12 languages, including American Sign Language. A survey of recent graduates shows that 85 percent of students who studied Careers in Technical Education got a job in a field similar to their academic focus, and 57 percent of students who entered the work force after community college secured a living wage. Foothill is pushing the boundaries of community college education by offering a bachelor's degree in Dental Hygiene, and a new bachelor's degree in Respiratory Therapy starting in 2024.

Our Nation's Veterans have made Foothill College their home. Working hand-in-hand with the Veterans Resource Center, servicemembers explore careers and become part of the local community. Many transfer to a 4-year college or begin working, empowered by the tools Foothill College has given them.

For all these reasons and more, Foothill College has earned the distinction of 'The Best Community College in America'. As a graduate of a community college myself, I know how valuable a community college education is. How proud I am that the home of Foothill College is California's 16th Congressional District where it is a jewel in the crown of the District that I am so privileged to represent.

HONORING HANNA YUN

HON. MORGAN McGARVEY

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 17, 2023

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hanna Yun for her service to Louisville and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Having grown up in Korea, Hanna is a strong voice for Korean and immigrant communities in Kentucky's Third District. She is currently serving her second term as the President of the Korean American Association of Kentuckiana, and is an activist, volunteer, and leader in outreach. I thank Hanna for her commitment to Louisville's immigrant communities.

RECOGNIZING JOSEPH MCFARLAND III, RECIPIENT OF THE GREATER PITTSBURGH FRIENDLY SONS GILMARTIN ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 17, 2023

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Joseph McFarland III, who has been awarded the Gilmartin Achievement Award by the Greater Pittsburgh Friendly Sons of St. Patrick. Joseph will be recognized at the group's annual gathering on March 17, 2023.

Joseph, the son of Joseph and Andrea McFarland, grew up in Old Forge, Pennsylvania. He attended Bishop Hannan High School, graduating with the class of 1987. After high school, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, serving for six years, including during the Gulf War and Operation Desert Storm, before his honorable discharge.

In 1993, Joseph began working as an hourly associate at the Home Depot, beginning his 30-year career in retail. He quickly rose through the ranks, taking on increasingly challenging and increasingly senior positions. He retired from the company in 2015 as a division president, overseeing more than 110,000 associates. Joseph continued to excel in retail executive management. He was based in Dallas, Texas as the chief operations officers of JCPenney, where he was responsible for stores, operations and merchandising.

Since 2018, Joseph has been the executive vice president for Lowe's. He is responsible for nearly 300,000 associates, leading teams relating to stores, contact centers, services, operations, workforce management, asset protection, real estate, facilities, aviation and global security.

In addition to his professional pursuits, Joseph works to give back to his community. He serves on the boards of the Lisa Beth Gerstman Foundation, City of Hope Hardware/Homebuilding Industry, Building Homes for Heroes and the Big XII Council. Together with his wife, Misty, he founded a nonprofit real estate company to provide affordable housing for Georgians in need in the Greater Atlanta area.

I am honored to join with the Greater Pittsburgh Friendly Sons to recognize Joseph, a proud son of Northeastern Pennsylvania, for his impressive career achievements and his military service. May he continue to strive for excellence in his professional and personal endeavors. I wish him the best this St. Patrick's Day.

HONORING JOLENE MOLITORIS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 17, 2023

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, today, I am honoring and celebrating Jolene Molitoris for all her years of dedicated service to improving rail service and safety in Ohio, and across our country, and around the globe. It is important for me to honor Jolene, who I have known for well over 30 years, dating back to her days with the Ohio Rail Transportation Authority.

As a city planner, I know the importance of transportation and mobility for my constituents